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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 160

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CONTENTS

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

New Zealand Fishermen Resent Foreign Competition (THE EVENING POST, 13 May 81, THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 2 May 81)	1
Joint Venture Criticized, by Karen Dabrowska Objections to Trade Barriers	
New Zealand Launches Offshore Oil Exploration Program (THE EVENING POST, 11, 12 May 81, THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 13 May 81)	3
West Coast Area Involved 'EVENING POST' Editorial Successful Applicants Listed	
Briefs	
USSR-New Zealand Fishing	7
U.S.-New Zealand Oil Search	7

ASIA

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

New Zealand Seeks Blue Fin Tuna Market in Japan (THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, 28 Apr 81)	8
--	---

BERMUDA

Cruise Ship Captain Fined \$40,000 for Oil Pollution (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 14 May 81)	9
--	---

PHILIPPINES

Mining Firm Aggravates Pollution (P. Apostol; BULLETIN TODAY, 20 May 81)	11
Briefs New Fish Venture Rules	13

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Indian Ocean Fishing Commission Meets (LE MAURICIEN, 23, 25 Apr 81)	14
Joint Control of Fishing Discussed Project To Study Resources Planned	
Seychelles Cease Delivery of Tuna to Mauritius (LE MAURICIEN, 3 Apr 81)	16

NEW ZEALAND FISHERMEN RESENT FOREIGN COMPETITION

Joint Ventures Criticized

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 13 May 81 p 17

[Article by Karen Dabrowska]

[Text]

FIFTEEN years ago the first joint venture fishing vessel appeared in New Zealand waters — today we have more joint venture fishing operations than any other country.

The Government approved the ventures in the hope that they would lead to the nationalisation of deep water fishing within our 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

A transfer of skills to local fishermen, the development of on-shore processing facilities which would create jobs and increase exports and access to untapped markets, was envisaged.

During the 1979-80 joint ventures almost doubled. There were 119 vessels fishing over and above the domestic fleet compared with only 60 squid boats in 1978-79.

They caught 103,000 tonnes of fish worth \$75-80 million while foreign licensed boats caught 71,000 tonnes worth \$25 million and local fishermen caught 109,000 tonnes worth \$83 million.

The joint ventures have benefited the country, according to the directors of most of the 26 New Zealand companies involved.

But local commercial fishermen see them as a rapidly increasing threat to their livelihood and a major barrier to the nationalisation of the deep water fishery.

"There is little inducement for private companies to invest in the local industry when they get export incentives for joint venture operations and can charter foreign vessels," said the

liaison officer of the New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen, Mr I McWhannell.

"There isn't much the joint venture operators can teach us — we were trawling long before the Japanese."

The joint venture companies disagree.

Mr E V Henry, the chairman of Fletcher Sovrybiot Fishing (FLETSOV) attributed the company's success to Russian expertise.

"The sales of \$7.5 million in our first 12 months represent exports New Zealand would never have had if the Soviet experience had not been available," he said.

The general manager of Sanford, Mr N L Milla, the chief executive officer of Polmark Fisheries, Mr E S Hobbs, and the chairman of High Seas Fisheries, Mr D F Stevenson also attributed substantial catches and export successes to the expertise of joint venture partners.

But in many cases local boats are catching more.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) reported that while the 567 tonne Japanese Koyo Maru No 31 had an average catch of 2.09 tonnes an hour three local boats (one weighing 350 tonnes and the other two 192 tonnes) caught three tonnes, 5.5 tonnes and 3.63 tonnes respectively, in the same time period.

Call to cancel

At their annual conference last year the commercial fishermen passed a remit asking those companies involved in joint ventures with the communists to follow their Australian counterpart's

example and cancel them in protest at the intervention in Afghanistan.

"Today New Zealand is the only country in the Pacific Basin, Asia and Australasia collaborating with the communists," said Mr McWhannell.

"The freight rates are so low they would gladden any cost accountant. There is no way local fishermen who have to land and process their catch before exporting can succeed in the face of such competition," he says.

Local fishermen claim that as well as teaching them very little the joint venture operators are competing with them on both the domestic and the overseas market.

But the directors of the joint venture companies claim they export the entire catch and only supply the local market if there is a shortage during the off season.

A list of the earnings joint ventures bring to this country was provided by Mr Hobbs, of Polmark.

"The seven port calls a year made by the Polish vessels bring in \$400,000.

"The Harbour Board benefits from port dues, shopkeepers provide food and additional equipment for the ship, the crew spend money on doctors, dentists, alcohol and entertainment and export agents are kept busy."

Fletsof is constructing a \$1 million coldstore in Dunedin and manager Mr Henry estimates \$4 million a year is provided by the port calls of the 11 trawlers.

But Mr McWhannell emphasised that a cold store is not a processing plant but a storage building, so there is little benefit to our local processing industry.

Objections to Trade Barriers

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 2 May 81 p 3

[Text]

Staff Reporter

Rotorua

A call has been made for the dismantling of trade barriers for New Zealand fish exports in countries with fishing rights in New Zealand waters.

The president of the Fish Exporters' Association, Mr R. L. Harrison, said yesterday that countries not willing to remove such barriers should not be allowed to fish here.

In his annual report to the association conference in Rotorua, Mr Harrison said the success of the New Zealand fishing industry depended on its ability to enter markets without confronting restrictive import trade barriers.

"We are continually having

to meet tariff and non-tariff barriers in the majority of our markets, and all efforts must be maintained to have these removed or reduced."

Countries fishing in New Zealand waters under a Government-to-Government licensing arrangement should "only be allowed in our zone conditional on the removal of any trade restriction that applies to our product but not theirs," said Mr Harrison.

He named Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and Russia as countries with total or partial impositions placed on some New Zealand-caught species.

"I understand that in December, 1980, the United States Congress passed a bill which provides for approval of foreign-licensed fleets in the United States zone only if American-caught produce is allowed free entry to the

foreign market concerned," said Mr Harrison.

"I consider New Zealand should be making every effort to pursue this type of agreement."

Mr Harrison said that in 1978 fish exports were worth \$43.6 million. In 1980 the figure had jumped to \$162.4 million.

Few other export industries could match such rapid growth.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation had estimated that the world demand for fish would grow at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent.

"There is no doubt that New Zealand is well placed to play its part in supplying its share of this demand."

Mr Harrison sounded a caution on future mining of the seabed within the 200-mile zone.

The Minister of Overseas Trade, Mr Talboys, who later addressed the conference, said that Mr Harrison's suggestion about removing trade barriers was on the face of it "eminently reasonable and sensible."

However, it had to be looked at in the context of a big overall trading credit in New Zealand's favour with many of the countries concerned.

The Government, nevertheless, was continuing to push for greater access for New Zealand fish exports in overseas markets.

NEW ZEALAND LAUNCHES OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION PROGRAM

West Coast Area Involved

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 11 May 81 p 4

[Text] The Government today announced a new \$500 million off-shore oil exploration programme.

The money will be spent over the next five years.

About \$100 million will come from the taxpayers.

The programme, announced by the Minister of Energy, Mr Birch, involves the granting of 16 petroleum prospecting licences over a large area off the west coast. The area involved stretches from Kawhia in the North Island to Greymouth in the South Island.

Major share

Twenty-six companies will be registered as licensees, while the state-owned Petroleum Corporation will take a major share of a number of the licences.

A newcomer to the oil exploration field is New Zealand's Fletcher Challenge Ltd. It has joined Australia's Hematite Petroleum (NZ) Ltd and Petrocorp for a \$28 million two-well programme.

The licence block they have been granted is one of the more promising areas, between the present Maui field and the onshore Kapuni field in Taranaki.

In seven of the 10 licences where the Government, through Petrocorp, is to be a licensee, the contribution to exploration costs will be on the basis of 40 percent in return for a 51 percent share in any subsequent development of an oil or gas field.

In the other cases, Petrocorp will contribute 20 percent of the exploration cost in return for a 25.5 percent share in development.

In any successful oil or gas production, the well owners will pay a royalty of 12.5 percent to the Government.

Mr Birch said work over the next three years would consist mainly of thousands of kilometres of new seismic surveys. At least six wells would be drilled in the period.

In the fourth and fifth years, 20 wells are expected to be drilled.

"The issuing of these licences, which is a direct result of the Government's decision last year to advertise the availability of these blocks on a world-wide basis, is a major breakthrough in the history of New Zealand petroleum exploration," Mr Birch said.

"The success of this concession round is an endorsement of the Government's exploration policy, which has had to stand up against those of many other countries anxious to attract petroleum prospectors.

"The amount of competition for these blocks has meant that, unfortunately, some worthwhile applicants were unsuccessful in securing any of the concessions."

Mr Birch said within the next few weeks, companies would be invited to submit applications for a number of concession blocks offshore from Banks Peninsula in the South Island to the area south of the South Island where Hunt International and Phillips Petroleum have exploration licences in the Great South Basin.

Among those granted licences in New Zealand is Tricentral North Sea Ltd, a consortium of four Australian companies and a Canadian one. They hold a licence in the North Sea.

Diamond Shamrock Oil Company (NZ) Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Diamond Shamrock Corporation of the United States, which employs 13,000 people worldwide.

Extensive

Whitestone International Inc is an independent privately owned Texas-based oil company, while Exoil Ltd is registered in Hong Kong and is a member of the Pexamin group of companies, which have extensive exploration interests around the world.

A group of eight small United States companies have formed a consortium to explore in New Zealand known as the Seahawk Group.

Stewart Petroleum is a New Zealand company whose major shareholders are Mineral Resources (NZ) Ltd (which in turn is owned by the giant Standard Oil Company Indiana, of the United States) and Pan Pacific Petroleum, of Australia.

The smallest group is the Great South Basin Petroleum Company Ltd, a small private company based in Christchurch. It has been granted the biggest block.

'EVENING POST' Editorial

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 12 May 81 p 2

[Editorial: "On Verge of Oil Prospecting Surge"]

[Text]

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by the Government yesterday that it is to launch a new \$500 million offshore oil exploration programme makes exciting news.

It heralds a surge of prospecting activity which at times looked as if it would elude New Zealand.

The programme involves the granting of 16 petroleum prospecting licences over a large area off the west coast. The area involved stretches from Kawhia in the North Island to Greymouth in the South Island.

The taxpayer, through the state-owned Petroleum Corporation, will put about \$100 million into the venture, and the corporation will take a major share of a number of the licences.

It is most encouraging that international exploration companies have responded in such striking fashion to the "Prospectus for Petroleum Exploration" which was distributed on a world-wide basis.

In issuing the prospectus, the Minister of Energy, Mr Birch, said New Zealand had geological knowledge that indicated several promising areas, both onshore and offshore, and that, in this era of diminishing fossil fuel resources, any new find would be of considerable value.

The result of the prospectus was that 60 international oil companies, including most of the major ones, entered the "competition" for the rights to explore selected offshore blocks.

Mr Birch, has delightedly described the response as "overwhelming."

That so many of the oil exploration giants are anxious for a slice of the New Zealand oil action demonstrates

that they have reasonable confidence that there are adequate supplies of oil or gas to make their costly expenditure worthwhile.

It also indicates an acceptance of the fact that the New Zealand Government is offering a fair deal in taxation and other ways to those companies willing to take up the challenge.

This, of course, was not always the case. Little more than two years ago the withdrawal of the Hunt International Petroleum Company from New Zealand after frustrating experiences with the Government was the signal for a hiatus which could have been most damaging for this country's oil prospects had it been allowed to continue too long.

An executive of the American company spoke at the time of the need for getting a "fair shake of the dice" — and this realisation was finally brought home to the Government.

New Zealand has tested the attractiveness of New Zealand to oil explorers. In circulating its prospectus, Mr Birch expressed his satisfaction that the New Zealand Government's policy would readily stand up to comparison with the terms offered by other countries.

This claim has obviously been proved right.

The search for oil is an essential aspect of our whole energy commitment, and Mr Birch is not exaggerating when he describes the new development as a major breakthrough in the history of New Zealand petroleum exploration.

Successful Applicants Listed

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 13 May 81 Sec 3 p 1

/Text/ About 60 applications were lodged for the 16 petroleum prospecting concession area licences awarded off the west coast of New Zealand.

None of the successful applicants, determined by the Ministry of Energy on the basis of exploration work programmes, includes one of the really major international oil companies.

Not too much should be read into that, however, even though such companies may have applied. For instance, Shell and BP are believed to have applied for at least one licence area in the usual consortium of Shell BP Todd.

They probably have enough on their plates with their present offshore areas and could be expected to regard the areas offered for tender as being more marginal risks in view of their experience in the region.

It could also be that other giant international companies consider the area rather gas prone and they are more interested in oil.

That is not to belittle the oil prospects. What would be a major strike for New Zealand would be relatively less so for such operators. And of course the majors have been wrong before.

However, some big names may still be attracted. Two licences (107 and 116) in the name of state-owned Petrocorp give the companies six months to sign up a joint venture with a private enterprise partner or partners. Petrocorp would put in 40 per cent of exploration cost for 51 per cent of any discovery.

The state company has broken into a new sharing formula in some other areas with the 20 per cent cost contribution for 25.5 per cent of any discovery.

Still Open

This is part of the company's grading of risks — measuring potential results against investment. In some cases it has not bid for partnership.

Fourteen blocks are still open for application, apparently though lack of bids for those particular areas. That would change with any near-by success.

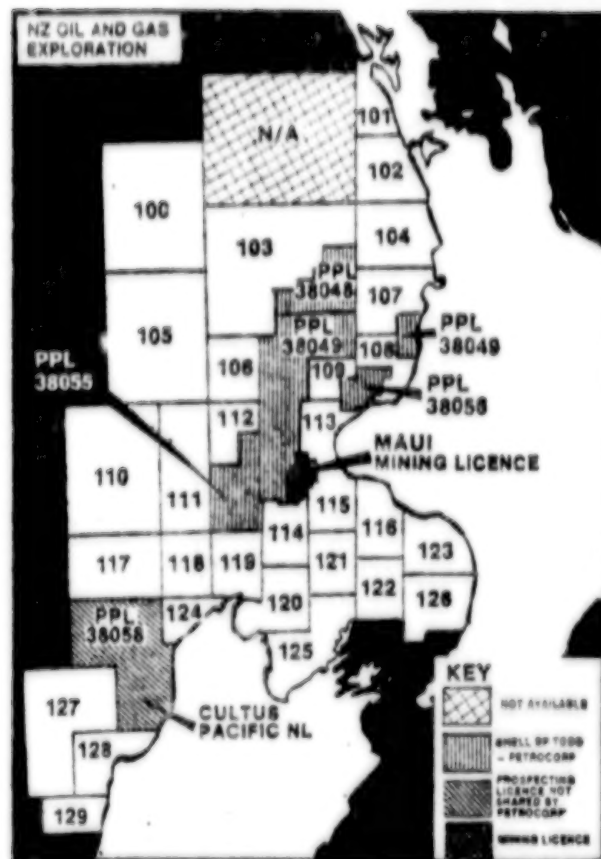
Still open are blocks 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 111, 112, 118, 123, 124, 126, 127 and 128.

Block 114 contains the area in which the Shell BP Todd consortium struck a non-commercial flow of 600 barrels a day of oil in 1970.

It was belief in New Zealand's potential as an oil province that led Mr Alan Falloon, a New Zealand petroleum geologist, to form the Great South Basin Petroleum Co which was awarded block 103.

"I knew it would be fairly competitive to get a licence in the present round but I put up a pretty good work programme which won me the lease," he said.

With the licence for a three-year term he is determined to move as quickly as possible to establish a partnership arrangement.



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

The successful applicants for petroleum prospecting licences and their licence areas shown in the map are as follows:—

- 102—Great South Basin Petroleum Co Ltd (a small Christchurch-based private company).
- 107—Petrocorp Exploration (40 per cent investment with six months to complete joint venture with private enterprise party).
- 108—Exoil Ltd and Petrocorp Exploration (40 per cent).
- 109—Diamond Shamrock Oil Co New Zealand Ltd (also involved in the NZ Petroleum area south of area 129) and Petrocorp Exploration (40 per cent).
- 110—Stewart Petroleum Co Ltd (giving Mineral Resources a 24 per cent interest) and Beaver Australia Ltd.
- 113—Stewart Petroleum Co Ltd (giving Mineral Resources a 14 per cent interest), Beaver Australia Ltd and Petrocorp Exploration (40 per cent).
- 116—Princeton North Sea Ltd, Cultus Pacific NL, York Resources NL, Martin Oil NL, Archeon Oil NL, BRG Resources, Petrocorp Exploration (40 per cent).
- 115—Hematite Petroleum (NZ) Ltd (subsidiary of SHIP, Fletcher Challenge, Petrocorp Exploration, 40 per cent).
- 116—Petrocorp Exploration (40 per cent with six months to complete venture with private enterprise partner).
- 117—Exoil Ltd of Hong Kong.
- 119—Whitestone International Inc of the US, Petrocorp Exploration (20 per cent).
- 120—Diamond Shamrock Oil Co New Zealand Ltd, Petrocorp Exploration (20 per cent).
- 121—Whitestone International Inc and Petrocorp Exploration (20 per cent).
- 123—Cue Consolidated NL, Oil and Mineral Quest NL, Charter Oil and Gas Pty Ltd.
- 125—Whitestone International Inc.
- 129—United States companies: Seahawk Oil International Inc, Sunlight International, Sundance Resources Inc, Puma Pacific Resources Inc, Texon Energy Corporation, Pan Energy Resources Inc, Anacapa Petroleum Corporation, Albion International Resources Inc.

BRIEFS

USSR-NEW ZEALAND FISHING--Russian deep sea trawling expertise may enable Dunedin-based Wrightson Fisheries to significantly boost export sales and processing revenue in its new financial year. Mr. E. V. Henry managing director of Fletcher Fishing Ltd said one of the most important early benefits of the fishing integration within the group would give Wrightson Fisheries to Soviet techniques through the Fletcher Sovrybflot Fishing Limited (FLETSON) joint venture in which Fletcher Fishing is the majority partner with the Soviet organisation V/O Sovrybflot. The 11 trawlers in the FLETSON fleet fish in water up to 1000 meters deep of the Chatham Rise and at the outer extremities of New Zealand's 200-mile exclusive economic fishing zone. Mr Henry said Wrightson Fisheries was budgeting for a significant increase in export sales to about \$5 million in new species such as orange roughy, deep sea sory and squid in the new financial year commencing July 1. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 30 Apr 81 p 6]

U.S.-NEW ZEALAND OIL SEARCH--The American drill ship Sedco 445 is about to spud in its second well in the latest off-shore oil exploration programme. The ship abandoned Tangaroa-1 last week. The new well, to be known as Kiwa-1, is 70 kilometers southwest of the Maui-A off-shore gas platform. It is 105 kilometres from the shore. The target depth for the new well has yet to be announced. The operators of the Sedco 445, Shell BP and Todd Oil Services Ltd, have invited local Maori elders to the ship for the spudding in. The general manager of the company, Mr Graeme Brown, said it has been very disappointed that the gas show at Tangaroa-1 had never gone beyond "encouraging." However he said detailed studies were continuing on the results gained. [Text] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 28 Apr 81 p 24]

CSO: 5200

NEW ZEALAND SEEKS BLUE FIN TUNA MARKET IN JAPAN

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 28 Apr 81 p 18

[Text]

Local fishermen are cautiously moving in on a potential new \$70 million export market and are seeking Japanese co-operation to develop what has largely been a Japanese fishery.

The Fishing Industry Board is starting special training courses next week for fishermen on the South Island West Coast to catch southern blue fin tuna.

A total target catch of up to about 500 fish, worth about \$3 million, has been set for the local fishermen this season but the potential for expansion in the future is almost unlimited.

Japanese long-line fishermen working off the east coast of New Zealand are expected to take about \$70 million worth of blue fin tuna this season, but the New Zealand catch has to be limited because of quota and transport restrictions, according to the deputy general manager of the board, Mr Howard Stone.

The southern blue fin season is just beginning and it normally runs to about September each year.

West coasters caught about

1500 fish last year, which was their first major effort at developing the fishery.

Chilled Form

At present local effort is restricted to this area because it is a zone which has not been worked by Japanese boats and there are no conflicts of interest.

Each fish can be worth up to about \$26 a kilogram, depending on the quality of the catch. The New Zealand catch has to be air-freighted in chilled form and this has limited the expansion of local fishing.

Under Japan's import regulations all frozen fish is subject to quotas, and if New Zealand wants to shift to this type of operation then local fishermen have first to acquire a refrigerated fish carrier operated by a nation which has rights to export tuna to Japan.

Mr Stone said that ideally Japan should provide a carrier because that would give the Japanese fishing industry some input and it would open the door for New Zealand frozen exports.

Very Economic

He said that Japan's tuna fishing association was naturally wary of the New Zea-

land developments because of fears that its own fleet operating off the east coast of New Zealand could ultimately be displaced by New Zealand boats.

"New Zealand fishermen just do not have the craft to do this," he said.

About 96 Japanese tuna long liners had already arrived to start east coast fishing.

The development of New Zealand's West Coast blue fin fishery was a very economic proposition for local fishermen, he said.

They could catch the fish by using hand lines and trolling, and employing the same boats which were used for other species during the rest of the year.

If the West Coast fishermen did not get Japanese co-operation for this venture then it could cause bad feeling and the board was concerned that local fishermen might then press for the removal of the east coast Japanese long liners.

Mr Stone said that even if New Zealand was granted an import quota for frozen blue fin by Japan there was still the problem of getting a suitable carrier.

There are no suitable refrigerated fish carriers in New Zealand.

CRUISE SHIP CAPTAIN FINED \$40,000 FOR OIL POLLUTION

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 14 May 81 p 2

[Text] The Captain of the luxury cruise ship S.S. Veendam was yesterday fined \$40,000 for causing oil pollution to Bermuda's waters. In the first case of its kind under the amended oil pollution law, the magistrates court heard that oil discharged from the Veendam caused two 300 feet long black slicks in the Great Sound.

The slicks were spotted on April 20 by a charter yacht operator.

Investigating Marine Police discovered the slicks lying in an oily sheen stretching about 6,000 feet from the Veendam, anchored off King's Point, to Alpha Island.

Mr Andrejs Berzins, prosecuting, said that originally the Veendam Captain, Cornelius Hoenderos, denied causing the slicks. But later he made a statement to Marine Police, Mr Berzins continued.

"He stated that he was first made aware of the oil by his crew shortly after 1 p.m. on the day of the incident. He states that at that time he did not know where the oil originated from, but gave orders for the oil to be cleaned up with chemicals because it was making his ship and ship's boats dirty."

The following morning the Veendam's chief engineer discovered that debris in two overboard discharge valves had caused the leak.

"The defendant further stated that he later caused the Marine Police to be informed of what had been discovered," said Mr Berzins. "He continues that he then sent members of his crew to the nearby islands with instructions to clean up any oil they found. They apparently did not find any."

But inquiries show that Hoenderos never informed the Department of Marine and Ports nor did he request advice in dealing with the oil. In fact, the chemicals he used on the slick might have been poisonous and dangerous for sea life.

"It would appear that although the defendant's actions were made with good intentions, he may have tended to exacerbate the pollution problem. The full impact of this pollution on the environment will not be known fully for some time."

Hoenderous, a 55-year old Dutchman, said: "We denied this at first because it was impossible that it could have been us causing the oil slick. There were other ships anchored in the Great Sound."

Hoenderous, who also admitted failing to report the discharge of oil, was also fined \$500 for that offence.

After Mr K. C. Nadarajah had imposed the fines, Hoenderous said he was not aware he was obliged to report the oil slick.

An agent for Holland America Line which runs the Veendam said they would be lodging an appeal.

CSO: 5200

MINING FIRM AGGRAVATES POLLUTION

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 20 May 81 p 22

[Article by P. Apontol]

[Text] Residents of the island province of Marinduque who have been long haunted by the prospect of heavy marine pollution are in for another shock.

Marcopper Mining corporation which has been under fire for having reportedly polluted major fishing areas and rich coral reefs in Hakupan and Banot islands has announced the forthcoming start of operations of its San Antonio expansion project.

This came as a jolt for the residents. At its present capacity, Marcopper has been ejecting an average of 60,000 tons of mine tailings daily out of 20 million tons of ore processed. This mine tailings is dumped in Calancan bay resulting not only in the death of marine life in this body of water but also in the spillage of highly toxic wastes into surrounding waters.

A Marcopper official had admitted heavy siltation of the corals in some of the province's main marine areas. The same official was reported as having justified such siltation or coral damage by saying that damaged corals could be regenerated if the dumping would be stopped. This claim was, however, refuted by a UP marine biologist who said that coral formation would take hundreds of years to rejuvenate.

The residents said that due to marine pollution, Marcopper has brought more misery than progress for the province.

The residents said they are not against the existence of Marcopper "But if the price of progress would mean destruction of natural resources, certainly, something must be done to stop this," Franco Preclaro, chairman of the committee on environment of the Marinduque Jaycees, said.

"What will happen to our children and their children. What will be the future of fishermen in the coastal towns," he asked.

"Marcopper officials promised us jobs. Such promises have remained for years as such--promises," a fisherman said. "Some 1,000 fishermen have been dislocated because the marine pollution has rendered their traditional fishing grounds no longer safe for fishing," he added.

One whole family was almost wiped out from poisoning after eating a shellfish caught along the shorelines, it was reported.

The Jaydee official said the mining company does not care about the future and livelihood of the welfare of the people in the province. What they are interested in only is to extract the ore unmindful of the welfare of the local folk. After the company has extracted everything of commercial value to the mine firm, it will just pull out and all that we will inherit are "barren, unproductive land and polluted marine areas."

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

NEW FISH VENTURE RULES--The Ministry of Natural Resources has issued new rules on joint fishing ventures within the 200-mile Philippine exclusive economic zone. Under the rules, joint fishing ventures will be allowed to explore fishery resources which are more than seven fathoms deep. These can be found in the eastern, northeastern, southwestern and northern portion of the country. Other marine areas open to joint fishing ventures are Cagayan, Isabela, Quezon, the Bicol provinces, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Davao Oriental and beyond the seven-kilometer shorelines of Samar, Leyte and Sorsogon. The fishing ventures will be allowed only to catch tuna, skipjack, and banito. Among the rules are: tonnage of foreign vessels shall not exceed 5,200 gross tons in 1980 and 4,500 tons in 1981. Bilateral agreements on joint ventures will be jointly approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources. (PTF). [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 May 81 p 28]

CSO: 5200

INDIAN OCEAN FISHING COMMISSION MEETS

Joint Control of Fishing Discussed

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 23 Apr pp 1, 8

[Text] Fishing officials from Indian Ocean countries met in Chaland yesterday to discuss the fishing potential (tuna and other species) in this part of the world. Work at the conference also dealt with joint control that will be exercised over fishing boats from countries not in the Indian Ocean (Japan, South Korea, Soviet Union).

Iswardeo Seetaram, minister of fishing, cooperatives and cooperative development, opened the first session of the meeting of the Indian Ocean Fishing Commission. He stressed the growing importance of fishing to the Mauritian economy. Thousands of Mauritians earn their living from the sea, either as fishermen or in the marketing of fishing products or boat construction. In addition, there are an estimated 70,000 Mauritians who fish for pleasure throughout the island.

According to Minister Seetaram, fish consumption has increased in Mauritius, going from 7 kilograms per person in 1969 to some 18 kilograms today.

Fish represent some 40 percent of all animal protein consumed by the people. For his part, the Rodrigues islander consumes an average of 50 kilograms of fish every year.

Defining the government's policy, Minister Seetaram said that the objectives to be attained should be: 1) an increase in fish consumption so that it will represent 50 percent of the animal proteins consumed; and 2) a reduction in our dependency on foreign countries (currently 70 percent of all fish consumed), amounting to 50 million rupees.

Project To Study Resources Planned

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 25 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Yesterday, the first session of the Committee for the Development and Promotion of Fishing in the West Indian Ocean came to a close in Chaland. The conference, sponsored by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and attended by Kenneth Lucas, assistant general director of the FAO, was for the purpose of outlining a collective strategy for Indian Ocean countries.

The congress was in fact attended by representatives of Reunion, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, the EEC and the UNDP, which will finance the committee's projects over the next 5 years. The committee began its work on Wednesday, presided over by David Ardill, divisional scientific officer in the Ministry of Fishing, and the assistant chairmanship of Norbert Odero, director of fishing in Kenya.

Working from data collected during the Indian Ocean study project in recent years, the committee looked at current knowledge of fish reserves, limitations on the development of fishing and possible ways of promoting its development. It was proposed that the FAO set up a technical project based in the Seychelles, but jointly managed by the entire region. The FAO aid would operate through the project, which will also be financed by the UNDP. A balance of \$185,000 was devoted to it this year and financing of the project for 1982 to 1986 will be decided upon at the meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa scheduled for next week in Addis Ababa.

Thanks to the help of the FAO, it has been possible in recent years to respond rapidly to the technical needs of countries in the region. The project studied by the committee at the Chaland meeting made it possible to examine the problem of the necessary expertise, among other things. The project must have available a resource specialist, a statistician, an expert in cottage fishing, and so on.

The committee also looked at administrative duties and the funds available that will determine the number of consultants to be employed. It goes without saying that the final bulletin, published at the close of the meeting, provides for the periodic convocation of specialists in the area to specialized work meetings, seminars, workshops, and so on.

It should be recalled that the Seychelles were elected to head the committee and Mozambique to serve as vice president for the coming session, which will take place in the Seychelles in 16 months, and for the period ending with that meeting.

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SEYCHELLES CEASE DELIVERY OF TUNA TO MAURITIUS

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 3 Apr 81 pp 1, 4

[Text] Mauritius will no longer be able to rely on the Seychelles for its supply of tuna needed to operate the plant of the Mauritius Tuna Canning and Fishing Enterprise (MTCFE).

One of MTCFE's main sources of tuna, the Seychelles, has just made a serious decision: to give up tuna fishing because, in the opinion of Albert Rene's regime, "it is no longer profitable."

Following a cooperation agreement signed on Tuesday, 24 March, with France, the government of the Seychelles (according to the Seychelles pro-government newspaper THE NATION) has decided to "take a new direction" and give back to France the four tuna boats it had delivered to the Seychelles. Until only recently, the four tuna boats served Port Louis. They are the "Aldabra," the "Astove," the "Alphonse," and the "Assomption." The latter was the center of a Mauritian-Seychelles controversy following a search by Mauritian authorities in Port Louis last month.

The Seychelles tuna industry has been in jeopardy and the regime of France Albert Rene does not conceal the fact. In a statement reported by THE NATION, the Seychelles minister of agriculture, Dr Ferrari, admits that tuna fishing in the Seychelles "has always had problems."

"Being very enthusiastic, we started too rapidly. We wanted to have everything all at once: a tuna industry, canned tuna, and so on," he said.

The four Seychelles tuna boats obtained poor results in their latest runs and the situation has been deteriorating for several months.

The Seychelles now intend to do research in order to learn what other types of fish are more adapted to their industry.

Harry Davy, director of the MTCFE, was questioned this morning and said that the Mauritian cannery "will not experience difficulty" in obtaining its supply following the Seychelles' decision, especially because its tuna boat, the "Lady Sushil," will resume fishing after repair in Japan.

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